

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a location request from a requestor for a location associated with a computing device, the location including a plurality of location properties; and
if a privacy preferences associated with the requestor has have not been specified, requesting a privacy preference associated with each of the plurality of location properties for the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
if a privacy preferences associated with the requestor has have been specified,
applying the specified preferences to determine whether to provide the location properties to the requestor.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
preventing the a location property from being provided to the requestor if the corresponding privacy preference for the location property specifies that the location property is to be kept private, and
providing the location property to the requestor if the corresponding privacy preference for the location property specifies that the location property is to be disclosed to the requestor.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein requesting includes providing a pop-up dialog box.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy for individual location properties.
7. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
enabling a user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing;
preventing a location property from being provided to a requestor if the user has disabled location-aware computing;
if the user has enabled location-aware computing and if a privacy preferences associated with each of a plurality of location properties for the requestor has have not been

specified, requesting a privacy preference associated with each of the plurality of location properties for the requestor from the user for a location property associated with a computing device, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein enabling the user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing includes

providing an option during basic input/output system configuration to enable and disable location-aware computing.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including setting a location privacy setting bit in response to the user selectively enabling or disabling location-aware computing.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein setting the location privacy setting bit includes setting a bit in BIOS memory.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 further including receiving a request for the location property from the requestor, and querying the location privacy setting bit to determine whether location-aware computing is enabled or disabled.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein setting and querying are performed using Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI)-based techniques.

13. (Currently amended) A machine-accessible medium storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

in response to receiving a request from a requestor for a location property, determine whether a privacy preferences associated with the requestor has have been specified;

if a privacy preferences associated with the requestor has have been specified, applying the each privacy preference to determine whether to provide a location property or withhold the location property; and

if a privacy preferences associated with the requestor has have not been specified, request the privacy preference associated with each of a plurality of location properties for the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Presented) The machine-accessible medium of claim 13 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

provide a pop-up dialog box to request the privacy preferences.

16. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 13 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
determine whether the machine is enabled for location-aware computing.

17. (Currently amended) The machine-accessible medium of claim 16 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

if the machine is not enabled for location-aware computing, prevent the machine from providing the requested location property regardless of whether the privacy preferences has have been specified and, if specified, regardless of the contents of the privacy preferences.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
in response to receiving a request for a location property from a requestor, determining whether a computing device is enabled for location-aware computing;

if the computing device is enabled for location-aware computing, determining whether a privacy preferences associated with a plurality of location properties for the requestor has have been specified;

if the privacy preference associated with the plurality of location properties for the requestor has have been specified, applying the each privacy preference to determine whether to provide the location property or withhold the location property; and
if the privacy preferences associated with the plurality of location properties for the requestor has have not been specified, requesting the privacy preferences associated with the plurality of location properties for the requestor, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein requesting the privacy preferences comprises providing a pop-up dialog box.

20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18 wherein determining whether a computing device is enabled for location-aware computing comprises determining a value stored in a location privacy setting in basic input/output system (BIOS) memory.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
enabling a user to enable and disable location-aware computing through a BIOS configuration routine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising:
using WMI/ACPI instrumentation techniques to set and determine the value stored in the location privacy setting.

23. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
a bus to communicate information;
a processor coupled to the bus;

a memory coupled to the bus to store information;
an antenna coupled to the bus to receive a signal to indicate a location of the system; and

a machine-accessible storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to:

in response to receiving a request for a location property associated with the system from a requestor, determine whether a privacy preferences associated with a plurality of location properties the requestor has have been specified for the requestor;

if a privacy preferences has have been specified, apply the each privacy preference to determine whether to provide or withhold the requested location property; and

if a privacy preferences associated with the plurality of location properties the requestor has have not been specified for the requestor, request that the privacy preferences be specified, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the machine-accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to determine whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the memory includes a basic input/output system (BIOS) memory and wherein determining whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing includes determining a value stored in a location in the BIOS memory.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein requesting the privacy preference includes providing a pop-up dialog box.

28. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the requestor is one of a client application and a location-based service.

29. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a query requesting one or more location properties;
determining if location aware computing is enabled;
if the location aware computing is enabled, then

determining whether user privacy preferences have been specified;

if user privacy preferences have not been specified, requesting user privacy preferences associated with each of the one or more location properties requested, wherein the privacy preferences indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with and/or blocked from the requestor;

determining whether privacy is indicated for each of the requested one or more location properties;

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is not indicated, obtaining the requested one or more location properties and sending the requested one or more location properties; and

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is indicated, blocking the requested one or more location properties for which privacy is indicated.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein requesting user privacy preferences associated with each of the one or more location properties includes providing a pop-up dialog box.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy preferences for each individual location property.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a privacy menu allows the user to select the privacy preferences for the requestor.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein a the privacy menu comprises location properties, the location properties including at least one of latitude, longitude, altitude, street address, city, state, postal code, and/or country, and wherein the user may select one, more than one, or none of the location properties for the privacy preferences of the requestor.